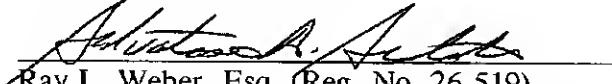


**REMARKS**

The present patent application is a national stage patent application of International Application No. PCT/US99/26950, filed November 16, 1999. International Application No. PCT/US99/26950 claims the benefit of the filing date of United States Provisional Application No. 60/108,837, filed November 18, 1998. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendment and earnestly solicits a formal Notice of Allowability directed to claims 1-71.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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4-27-01

Date

09/830894

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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 6: [The present application claims priority from United States Provisional Application No. 60/108,837, filed November 18, 1998.] This application is a national stage application of International Application No. PCT/US99/26950, filed November 16, 1999, which claims the benefit of United States Provisional Application No. 60/108,837, filed November 18, 1998.

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